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SENATE MEMBERS of INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE "PURELY LOCAL BILL" BLOCKS LEGISLATION



SENATOR BUCKMAN.



SENATOR WEST.



SENATOR HUMPHRIES.

SENATOR BEARD DEFEATED IN EFFORT TO GET HIS AMENDMENT IN RESOLUTION TO INVESTIGATE RECORD OF I. I. TRUSTEES—RESOLUTION CARRIED AND SENATE MEMBERS APPOINTED.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 1 has finally survived as the fittest injunction of Legislative authority to investigate the records of the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund.

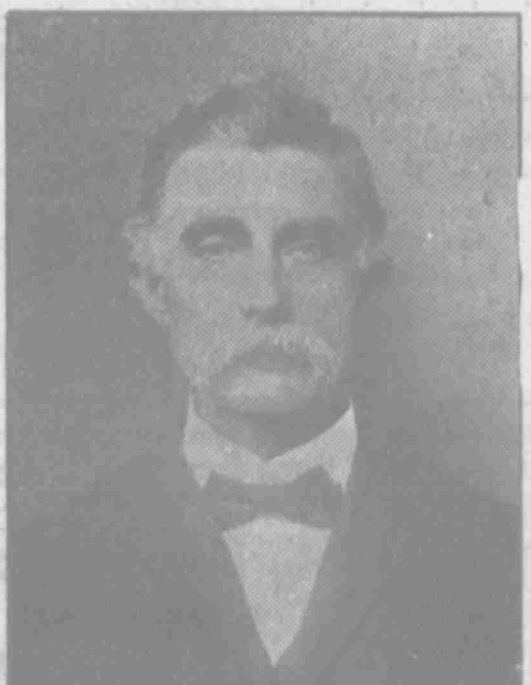
Whipsawed back and forth, amended in the Senate, contesting with its companion, Senate Resolution No. 1, for life, concurrence in the Senate amendments, then rejection of the amendment that was the source of so much argument and many oratorical outbursts—the provision for counsel, accountants, stenographers, etc.—tossing it back to the Senate, where Senator Beard made his last stand for his cherished amendment, and was defeated by an overwhelming force, the resolution prepared by Representative Carter, of Alachua, was declared to be the authority under which the investigation should be conducted.

When resolution from the House was taken up yesterday, Senator Beard moved that the Senate insist on concurrence in its amendment and hold a joint committee conference on the same. Bravely the Senator struggled against his opponents, but his ammunition was low and quickly exhausted, his volleys failed to penetrate the defense erected by the opposition. His supporters were captured by the enemy in short order, and when the vote was taken on his motion it stood seven to twenty-three, only President Harris, Senators Beard, Broome, Canova, Clark, Humphries and Willis voting for it, and the defeat of the now famous Beard amendment was accomplished.

Senator Beard, is seeking the preservation of his amendment, declared that if the resolution was adopted without it there might as well be no investigation, that the means for securing a thorough ransacking of the records had been cut off.

"Why," he said, "if it be left to the committee to employ help that may be needed, no person will care to take the employment, because of the uncertainty of compensation. The House, by its action, in refusing to concur in this amendment indicates that it withholds its sanction to employment of such assistance and the committee will be handicapped in the purpose for which it is created."

In this strain Senator Beard talked for some moments, then reverted to the importance of the investigation and the necessity of a clearing up of the past that the people may become satisfied of the exact condition.



SENATOR JACKSON introduced Anti-Cigarette Bill in Senate.

only to the time where preceding Legislatures had stopped each session.

Elimination of the amendment, the Senator declared, left the committee with only "authority to buy a little paper, ink and pens."

Senator Adams disagreed with the Senator from the Sixth concerning the authority of the committee. Professing the utmost respect for Senator Beard and his motives in strengthening the committee, and asserting that he, too, was eager for the same result as Senator Beard, but differed with him in his idea of obtaining it.

Senator Adams then discussed the provisions of the resolution as it was returned from the House. He thought the committee should be permitted to spend all money necessary for complete investigation, pointing out that such authorization was given in the resolution.

Replying to further remarks of Senator Beard, Senator Adams said the terms of the resolution were sweeping. Senator Zim thought concurrence was proper, and that too much delay had occurred, as did Senator Hudson, who claimed that there was no argument in the contention of Senator Beard; that the resolution itself amply provided for assistance.

Senators Beard's motion to insist on concurrence being defeated, the Senate then adopted the resolution, and the President named Senators Buckman, West, of the First District, and Humphries, members of the committee on the part of the Senate.

Senator Beard was first named by the President, but he declined to serve and Senator Humphries was appointed instead.

Much ado about nothing in the form of action on an amendment by Senator Hudson to Senate Bill No. 28, which repeals the law relative to filing pleadings, papers and proceedings duplicate.

The amendment provided for exceptions to the general repeal, and Senator Cone objected and Senator Hudson pleaded for it. Argument prevailed between the principal contenders until everybody was wearied, until Senator Adams gained the floor long enough to inquire sarcastically if the amendment was a copy of "the Georgia law," following which the vote was taken and the amendment shelved.

A concurrent resolution, by Senator Cone, provided for a committee to visit Lake City and examine the property formerly used by the University of Florida, worth about a quarter of a million dollars, in which about \$40,000 belonging to the State was involved, and report its findings by bill or otherwise.

The Senate crop of bills was short again yesterday, but eleven being introduced. Among them were a bill to extend the time of construction of the Charlotte Harbor and Northern Railroad, by Senator Crane; making tax deeds before and after enactment of the bill prima facie evidence of title; anti-cigarette, by Senator Jackson; to provide for erection of a building for the Supreme Court and others, by Senator Sams; fixing the salaries of State Attorneys at \$1,800 a year, by Senator Alford.

A message from the Governor—report on the Committee on Indian War Claims—was received and spread upon the Journal and 200 copies ordered printed.

Senate Joint Resolution No. 3, relative to the establishment of the initiative and referendum method of legislation, came up on second reading, and was indefinitely postponed on motion of Senator Beard.

PROVIDING FOR ANNEX TO CAPITOL.

To Be Three Stories High with Quarters for Supreme Court, R. R. Commission and Board of Control.

Recently THE SUN printed an article relative to the need of more room for State officials, suggesting the building of an annex to house the Supreme Court and Library, Railroad Commission, etc., together with plans for the same, which plans are now hung up in The People's Lobby.

In the Senate yesterday a bill, practically identical with the suggestions outlined by THE SUN, was introduced by Senator Sams. Following is the text of the bill:

Section 1. That the sum of one hundred thousand dollars be appropriated from any moneys in the State Treasury not otherwise appropriated for the purchase for the State of a suitable plot of ground in the City of Tallahassee and for the erection thereon of a substantial building of three stories in height and not less than sixty (60) feet in breadth and with a length of not less than one hundred and twenty (120) feet, and to be constructed of brick or stone or both combined, according to plans and specifications to be adopted and agreed upon by the building committee hereinafter provided for.

Sec. 2. The Board of Commissioners of State Institutions, as soon as practicable after the passage of this act shall locate and purchase with the money hereby appropriated in the name of the State of Florida some suitable block of land conveniently near to the State House, and, if possible, such block to be free of any buildings or ownerships, and isolated by surrounding streets on all sides from other buildings or ownerships, for the purpose provided for in the first section of this act; Provided: That no greater sum than ten thousand dollars shall be paid for such lot of land.

(Continued on Page 4.)

BUSINESS STOPS WHILE HOUSE DISCUSSES WAY TO PROCEED—ANTI-CIGARETTE BILL—FRANK CLARK'S CIGARETTE BILL—ANTI-TRUST BILL INTRODUCED—FEW NEW BILLS.

One of those "purely local bills" blocked legislation in the House yesterday for about twenty minutes, owing to the attempt of Mr. Decker, of Hillsborough, to substitute a Senate bill for the House bill he was trying to get passed under suspension of the rules.

This was a bill relating to the charter of West Tampa, House Bill No. 138. Pleading that this was a "purely local matter, etc.," Mr. Decker moved that the rules be waived and the bill put on its second reading.

Before the Speaker could put the motion Mr. Decker was again on his feet, and moved to further waive the rules and put the bill on its third reading and passage.

The Speaker explained that he had not yet arrived at the place where that could be done, so that the bill was read the second time.

Then Mr. Decker moved that Senate Bill No. 117, a similar measure, be substituted for the House bill.

The Legislative track was blocked then and railroading ceased for a time, because it was ascertained that the Senate bill was in the hands of committee. Mr. Decker, however, promptly moved to substitute it anyway with out reference to the committee.

The Speaker refused to budge, except in regular order, and then for about a quarter of an hour those interested and those who were not, discussed ways and means to get the bill from committee.

The chairman of the Committee on City and County Organization, which committee held tight to the bill, stated that he was willing to report the bill at once, but after a hurried conference with members on the floor, during which time business was suspended, it was decided that a meeting of the committee would be necessary and the bill had better be left to take its regular course.

The House got its first anti-trust bill yesterday, by Mr. Kirkland, of Lake, which defines trusts and conspiracies against trade, declaring contracts in violation of provisions of this act void, and making certain acts in violation thereof, prescribing the punishment therefor and matters connected therewith.

A regular part of the program of Legislative work was put on the list yesterday, a little later in the session than usual, but it was bound to come—an anti-cigarette bill. Its companion was introduced in the Senate. The House bill was introduced by Mr. Kirkland, and the opponents of cigarettes, not discouraged or profiting by the useless efforts made in other States to enact a law of this character or to enforce it if enacted, are again at the bat.

The title of the bill is "To prohibit the sale, barter or giving away of cigarettes or cigarette material in this State, and prescribing penalties for a violation thereof."

"Anti-cigarette" was the best seasoned oak plank in the platform of Hon. Frank Clark when he represented Duval county in the House during the session of 1899, and though he valiantly worked for his bill, fearlessly braving the ridicule handed out to him, the humble cigarette continued to burn.

Clark's bill was finally passed, and then the gentleman from Duval took another lesson in Constitutional law—the bill failing to comply with Constitutional requirements.

Mr. Dorman, of Suwannee, was in receipt of a communication from Hon. Frank Clark, which was read in the House yesterday, thanking Mr. Dorman and the House for the resolution condemning Barry and Hearst.

The Speaker received a communication, which was read, from the camp of U. C. V. at Pensacola, asking that the Legislature establish a department of archives and history, wherein shall be kept records of wars, etc., and also asking for an appropriation toward the building of a monument to the women of the South.

Providing for a committee to inspect the property of the State at Lake City, formerly the University of Florida, was the purpose of a concurrent resolution by Mr. Rowe of Madison (a companion resolution was introduced in the Senate).

Fifteen bills were introduced in the House yesterday, the great rush of the first few days of the session seeming to have subsided.

Among them were: Relating to assessment and collection of general revenue, extension of time limit of construction of the Charlotte Harbor and Northern Railroad, by Mr. Dudley of Hillsborough.



REPRESENTATIVE MALONE Energetic Member from Monroe.